

REMARKS

The Office Action dated May 21, 2003 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. Accordingly, claims 1-5 are pending in this application and are submitted for consideration.

Applicants respectfully acknowledge the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during the August 19, 2003 personal interview. The points discussed during the interview are incorporated herein.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Morita et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,831,374, "Morita"). In making this rejection the Office Action took the position that Morita discloses all the elements of the claimed invention. However, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-5 are neither disclosed nor suggested by Morita.

Applicants amended claim 1 recites a plasma display apparatus including a plasma display panel. A circuit board mounts a drive circuit for driving the plasma display panel, and a chassis structure is provided on the backside of the plasma display panel for supporting the plasma display panel and for mounting the circuit board. The chassis structure includes a first chassis member mounting the circuit board, and a second chassis member fixed on the backside of the plasma display panel. A plurality of support portions are provided between the first and second chassis members for supporting the two chassis members and for forming a predetermined interval between the two chassis members. The plasma display apparatus further includes a rear case

connected with the chassis structure for covering the chassis structure. The backside of the plasma display panel is entirely and intimately supported by the second chassis member.

In making this rejection, the Office Action took the position that Morita discloses all of the elements of the claimed invention. However, it is respectfully submitted that the prior art fails to disclose or suggest the structure of the claimed invention, and therefore, fails to provide the advantages of the present invention. For example, the plasma display apparatus of the present invention is configured to include a plurality of support portions provided between the first and second chassis members, the support portions forming a predetermined interval in between. The plasma display apparatus further includes a rear case connected with the chassis structure for covering the chassis structure. The backside of the plasma display panel is entirely and intimately supported by the second chassis member.

As a result of the claimed configuration, by virtue of the predetermined interval and support portions, the total area for heat radiation becomes larger, thereby making it possible to obtain an improved heat radiation effect and sufficient support strength.

Morita discloses a plasma display panel 100 mounted with its front surface facing outward through an opening 70a in the front of a cabinet 70. As shown in Figure 4, the opening 70a is covered by a plate formed from a transparent material. The heat sinking unit 2 is mounted on the outside faces of outer edge portions 44, contacting the inner faces of the side portions of the cabinet 70. The arrays of fins 211 extend in a vertical direction of the PDP 100. The ends of fins 211 contact the rear panel of the cabinet 70, and heat conduction paths are formed from PDP 100 to the cabinet 70 through fins 211.

The height of the fins 211 and the outer edge portions 44 are arranged such that the ends of the fins 211 extrude outwardly of the extruding ends of the outer edge portions 44. A finned external heat sinking unit 140 is mounted on the back surface of the cabinet so that the heat from PDP 100 can be transferred through fins 211 and dissipated. The finned external heat sinking unit 140 is mounted so as to increase the heat dissipating area of the cabinet 70, so that the fins make rows in the vertical direction of cabinet 70. The rear panel of the cabinet 70 may also be shaped in the form of a net or grating to increase the venting area.

The Office Action asserted that in Morita, joining portion 221 or frame 10 are equivalent to the first chassis member of the present invention, and the finned external heat sinking unit 140 is equivalent to the second chassis member of the present invention. The Office Action further asserted that the heat radiation fins 211 are equivalent to the support portions provided between the first and second chassis members of the present invention.

However, in Morita, although the joining portion 221 can support the backside of the panel, the finned external heat sinking unit 140 is attached only on the backside of the cabinet accommodating the panel and the joining portion 221. As a result, it is difficult to ensure a sufficient rigidity for the plasma display apparatus.

In contrast, the plasma display apparatus of the present invention has a chassis structure that includes first and second chassis members connected by a plurality of support portions, as recited in claim 1; thereby ensuring a desired heat radiation, as well as a required rigidity for the plasma display apparatus.

Furthermore, because joining portion 221 has a plurality of thin-wall portions 22 (see Fig. 7A), it is impossible for the structure of Morita to provide a sufficient rigidity, which is a benefit of the plasma display apparatus of the present invention.

Additionally, as shown in Fig. 4 of Morita, flexible internal heat sinking unit 2 (first metal plate) supports the backside of a panel unit 1, while an external heat sink unit 140 (second metal plate) is supported on the backside of the cabinet 70. As shown in Fig. 3 of Morita, frame 10 has an opening in its central area and supports the edge portions of the backside of the panel unit 1. The flexible internal heat sinking unit 2 is disposed within the opening to support the backside of the panel unit 1. As shown in Figs. 5 and 11 of Morita, the frame 10 also supports the circuit board.

Accordingly, assuming *arguendo*, even if Morita's frame 10 can be considered an equivalent of the first chassis member of the present invention, Morita does not have a second chassis member connected in contact with the backside of the panel unit 1, as in claim 1 of the present invention.

Therefore, Morita fails to disclose or suggest that the chassis structure comprises a first chassis member mounting the circuit board, and a second chassis member fixed on the backside of the plasma display panel, or a plurality of support portions provided between the first and second chassis members for supporting the two chassis members and for forming a predetermined interval between the two chassis members. Morita also fails to disclose or suggest that the plasma display apparatus further includes a rear case connected with the chassis structure for covering the chassis structure, or that the backside of the plasma display panel is entirely and intimately supported by the second chassis member.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the Applicants' invention, as set forth in claim 1 is not anticipated within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Additionally, as claims 2-5 depend directly or indirectly on claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that each of these claims incorporate the patentable aspects thereof, and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as discussed above.

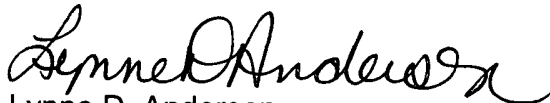
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, allowance of claims 1-5, and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability are respectfully solicited.

If this application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referencing docket number 107156-00067.

Respectfully submitted,

ARENT FOX KINTNER PLOTKIN & KAHN PLLC



Lynne D. Anderson
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 46,412

Customer No. 004372
1050 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20036-5339
Telephone: (202) 857-6000

LDA:ksm